

HOST Matters



Welcoming International Students Issue No 35 Autumn 2018



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Ice Breaker on a Hot Day

RO Katherine Varden hosted a student lunch party in August, inviting back students she had hosted at various times through out the year. The day began with a simple picture card warm up memory game to put everyone at their ease before re-setting the table for a feast.

Such a gathering is extra special as students will already know what to expect whilst being excited to meet peers pursuing other academic disciplines at other UK universities.

For the host it is a pleasant opportunity to catch up with previous guests and to know that your welcome added a special element to their great adventure.

Katherine says...

"As you can see we had a great time on a hot August day but were able to enjoy lunch in the shade of a lovely rowan tree in the garden. This group was made up of Malaysian, Chinese, Ugandan, Indian and Pakistani students."

How's that for your very own United Nations? !

HOST UK
welcoming international students

Memorable Summer Fun
A BIG Thank-you to those of you who have hosted a mighty 205 student guests in just the last three months!



A Warm Welcome Aboard.

We are delighted that *three* new members have recently joined the HOST Board of Trustees. Here's what they have to say about the attraction of the challenge....



My wish to support HOST stems from my experience of 12 years of living in different countries (Germany, Peru and Italy) during the 1960s and 70s when my husband worked overseas. I remember very well how much difference it made to be offered hospitality by local people who invited us into their homes and many of them have remained friends to this day.

Now living in UK under the cloud of Brexit, I think an organisation like HOST becomes all the more important to encourage relationships with foreign students and show them that they are welcomed here.

Sally Kuenssberg

Having had experience of welcome in other countries, it is a privilege to be able to return hospitality and make students feel welcome and at home when so far from their own families.

Understanding of other countries and their customs helps us all to be able to live in a better world. It is a privilege to be able to meet international students and show that the British are welcoming.

Katherine Varden



I've worked in Higher Education for almost 15 years and currently manage the International Student Advice team at City University of London. I have always been an enthusiastic supporter of HOST, having seen many students benefit from the scheme over the years, so was excited when an opportunity came up to work with them.

HOST offers students a unique cultural experience and I would love to see more students take advantage of this. I am hoping that my experience of working directly with students and university professionals will help HOST to develop and engage with institutions and students to make this happen.

Polly Penter

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result!

From Strength to Strength...

Last year you will recall we had concerns about our funding situation but happily, we can now report on a much improved position. In this financial year, we have received approximately £18,000 more [individual] donations than we have had recent years. Added to which, the total amount of expenses claimed by hosts is less by about £4,400 compared to that of the previous year.

We should like to thank you all for your support.

By donating, forgoing expenses or by offering those extra visits, you have given HOST the chance to keep on serving.

Interestingly, as much as **£30,000** could be realised for HOST if each of our hosts was able to offer just one more visit for a student guest.

We appreciate that there are those of you who may host often, but if you are a once-a-year host...could you consider going **Bi-Annual**?



YOU SHOP. AMAZON GIVES.

Are you shopping yet on AmazonSmile, which launched in the UK at the end of last year? If not, we'd like to encourage you to do so because if you shop on AmazonSmile, we could receive 0.5% of the net purchase price of your Amazon online shop at **no** extra cost to you. Half a per cent might not sound a lot, but if just 100 of our supporters start using smile.amazon.co.uk – nominating HOST UK as your chosen charity – we could make serious money!

Sign up for AmazonSmile today.

With Christmas just 80 shopping days away, this is a perfect time to sign up. All those 0.5% on your Christmas purchases could really mount up. Nominating HOST UK will take just a minute of your time... **Thank-you**

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

So...let's think Christmas and look to breaking records.

Between 2017 and 2018 our Festive visits rose by 54% to a mighty 656 visits! There's every likelihood that Festive hospitality will be as popular as ever and we should not want to disappoint.

Our annual appeal go out to thousands of churches and organisations looking to enrol new hosts, but the most effective recruitment has to be **your endorsement**. Please spread the word amongst the groups and societies of which you are a part. It's daunting to consider welcoming a stranger into your home, but **you** have done it and **you** know that the pleasure outweighs the anxiety.



Thank-you

Please let me have your news stories, it's just **great** to share the pleasure
Drop me a line at

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Oh we do love to be beside the seaside...

Pebble beaches, wild headlands, busy ferry ports, dramatic cliffs, we are able to showcase all the beauty of our coastal island and not one picture featuring a grey sky !!!? How far removed from the artificial lights of the lecture hall and the studios gloom of the library.

Fresh air and scenic panorama has clearly given great pleasure.



How you can help...

Friend of HOST

Become a Friend of HOST and give a regular donation. Find out more on the [HOST website](#).

Gift Aid

If you are a tax payer, gift aid your donation and increase its value by 25% at no extra cost to you.

One-off Donation

Make a one-off donation at [HOST's Big Give page](#), or by sending a cheque to HOST's office.

Legacies

Make a gift to HOST in your will to help the work continue. [Contact HOST](#) to find out more.

Challenge Yourself

Raise money while completing a challenge. Set up a fundraising page with [Virgin Money Giving](#), or contact HOST for an offline sponsorship form.

Hosts...

Are you able to help out your RO by visiting a potential host that is close to your home location to conduct that introductory visit?

Are you able to attend an event at your local university? If so, Sarah would love to hear from you on admin@hostuk.org

HOST's work would be impossible without its wonderful volunteers. If you haven't hosted in a while, please contact your Regional Organiser, and do encourage your friends to host, too!

Thank-you for all you do.

Finished reading? ...why not pass your HOST Matters on to a friend by way of telling them who we are and what you do.

Turn Recycling into Recruitment!!!